

ABSTRACT

A pressure cleaning vessel I is connected to a vacuum chamber P by way of a connecting pipe in the sterilizing and cleaning equipment ~~which~~ that utilizes a supercritical fluid. The objects to be treated ~~is~~ are impregnated, for a given period, in the supercritical fluid with which the pressure cleaning vessel I has been filled. Thereafter, the connection between the pressure vessel I and the vacuum chamber P is opened so as to generate sudden bubbling within the vessel I as a result of a large pressure difference. Thorough sterilization is achieved at the time when the supercritical fluid having penetrated into bacteria and viruses suddenly explodes and destroys these organisms instantly by ~~its power of~~ vaporization and expansion.